

- B.C.'s population increases 0.3% in the second quarter
- Retail sale rise 0.7% in July
- Revenues for the food service and drinking places industry increase 0.5% in July

Population

- **The population of British Columbia totalled 4,622,573 as of July 1, 2012.** A net gain of 11,493 international migrants helped boost B.C.'s population by 13,407 persons, representing a 0.3% increase during the second quarter of 2012.

Inter-provincially, B.C. recorded a net loss of 1,196 persons to other provinces and territories in the second quarter. This is the fourth quarter in a row in which more people have left B.C. for other Canadian jurisdictions than have come to British Columbia.

The population of Canada increased 0.4% during the second quarter of 2012. As such, B.C. was just under the national average and had the sixth strongest growth rate among the provinces. Alberta (+0.8%) and Saskatchewan (+0.7%) were the only provinces to outpace the national growth rate.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Revenues in British Columbia's retail sector rose 0.7% (seasonally adjusted) in July, partially offsetting the 1.0% decline registered the previous month.** Activity varied widely across the different types of retailers. While modest gains were recorded among clothing & accessories stores (+3.2%), general merchandise stores (+2.6%), and motor vehicle & parts dealers (+2.0%), these were dampened by weaker returns by sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores (-1.1%), electronics & appliance stores (-2.2%), and gasoline sta-

tions (-1.2%). Receipts at food & beverage stores, the province's largest retail sub-sector, were up only slightly (+0.6%) in July.

At the national level, retail sales rose 0.7% in July, with every province posting higher revenues. Gains made in Alberta (+1.4%), Quebec (+1.0%), and British Columbia (+0.7%) were the biggest contributors to the overall increase.

Data Source: BC Stats & Statistics Canada

- **Total receipts in British Columbia's food service and drinking places industry edged 0.5% higher (seasonally adjusted) in July.** Nationally, industry revenues rose 0.6%, mainly due to increased business at full-service restaurants (+1.1%). Five provinces posted gains, led by a 2.2% increase in Alberta. Of those that lost ground during the month, P.E.I. (-0.8%) registered the sharpest decline.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **There were 635 bankruptcies filed by consumers in British Columbia in July, down 1.7% from July 2011.** While the number of bankruptcies was down slightly, the volume of proposals to resolve outstanding debts with creditors by means other than the existing terms swelled 20.6% between July 2011 and July 2012.

Data Source: Industry Canada

- **Total lumber production (hardwood and softwood) at British Columbian sawmills inched ahead in July, up 0.7% over July of 2011.** During the first seven months of 2012, lumber production in the province was up 3.8% compared to the same period a year earlier. Nationally, lumber output edged down

Did you know...

Between 1991 and 2010, approximately 1 in every 500 births in B.C. were to mothers visiting from other countries.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

marginally (-0.1%) between July 2011 and July 2012.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Births

- **There were 43,874 births in British Columbia in 2010, down 2.7% from the previous year.** Average age among British Columbian mothers was 30.2 years at the time of delivery. Over the past two decades, the average age at delivery has climbed steadily from 28.0 years in 1991, the first year for which data are available, to 30.2 years by 2010.

Consistent with the rise in average age, the age cohorts that account for the largest proportions of total births has shifted to older mothers. In 1991, mothers aged 20 to 24 years accounted for 20% of births to women in British Columbia. By 2010, however, that proportion fell to 13% of total births. Conversely, the share of total births to mothers aged 34 to 39 years nearly doubled from 10% in 1991 to 19% in 2010. Mothers aged 40 to 49 are also making up for an increasing share of total births.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **In 2010, there were 2,408 low birth weight births recorded in British Columbia, representing 5.5% of total births in the province.** The incidence of low birth weight was evenly divided between newborn girls (51%) and boys (49%). In general, the proportion of total births characterised as low birth weight has been climbing since reaching a low of 4.8% in 1999.

Nation-wide, low birth weight births accounted for 6.2% of all births in 2010. P.E.I. (5.3%) and B.C. (5.5%) posted the lowest rates, while Alberta (6.8%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (6.7%) recorded the highest proportions of low birth weight births.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism Spending

- **Spending by tourists in Canada rose 0.4% (seasonally adjusted) during the second**

quarter of 2012, registering a twelfth consecutive advance since mid-2009.¹ The increased spending was fuelled by a rise (+0.7%) in tourism expenditures by Canadians travelling within the country. Spending by international visitors, however, down (-1.1%) compared to the first quarter.

Higher expenditures related to vehicle fuel (+2.3%), food & beverage services (+0.9%), and accommodation (+0.6%) accounted for much of the increase. Outlays on passenger rail (-3.4%), recreation & entertainment (-0.7%), and pre-trip expenditures (-0.3%), however, were lower.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 13-009-X

The Nation

- **Canadian real gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 0.2% (seasonally adjusted) in July, building on the 0.1% increase registered in June.** The country's goods-producing sector advanced 0.2% due to stronger growth in the utilities (+2.0%) and manufacturing (+0.6%) sectors. Mining and oil & gas extraction (0.3%) continued to weaken, posting its third straight decline in GDP in July.

The service sector expanded 0.2% as increases in the retail (+0.6%) and finance, insurance & real estate (+0.3%) sectors offset slowdowns in other services (-0.5%) and public administration (-0.1%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

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¹ Tourism expenditure data here are measured in constant 2002 dollars, thereby accounting for inflationary effects over time.



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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Jul 1/2012	
BC	4,622.6	1.0
Canada	34,880.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)	2010	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	203,147	5.9
GDP (\$ 2002 millions)	167,140	3.0
GDP (\$ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 2002 per Capita)	26,166	2.2
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jul 2012	3,203	0.6
Merchandise Exports - Jul 2012	2,590	0.8
Retail Sales - Jul 2012	5,128	0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on one year ago
(all items - Aug 2012)		12-month avg % change
BC	1.0	1.7
Vancouver	1.4	1.9
Victoria	0.9	1.6
Canada	1.2	2.1
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Aug 2012	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	14.9	
Labour Force - BC	2,488.3	0.3
Employed - BC	2,322.6	0.6
Unemployed - BC	165.7	-3.9
		Jul 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	6.7	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	7.3	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)		Sep 26/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.19
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		Sep 26/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$ per US \$	0.9842	1.0225
(closing rate) US \$ per Cdn \$	1.0150	0.9684
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug 2012	
BC	850.66	1.3
Canada	874.01	4.1
SOURCES:		
Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada		
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics		
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca		

Open Data, Census Area Profiles

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back!

See more:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx>

Key Indicators

A new way to stay current!. We've added a page to put the latest highlights and summary figures at your fingertips. -See more:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/KeyIndicators.aspx>

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx>

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx>

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Released this week by BC Stats

- Business Indicators (Data Tables), Sept 2012
- Population Highlights, Second Quarter 2012

Released next week

- Labour Force Statistics, September 2012
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Sept. 2012